

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

March 29, 2016

Town Hall

Chairman Kenneth Picard; Selectman Robert J. Fleming; Selectman James Brochu; Town Manager, Blythe C. Robinson; Executive Assistant, Sandra Hakala

Chairman Picard called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Presentation by Colonial Power – Electricity Aggregation Program

In February the Town entered into an Electricity Aggregation Contract with Colonial Power to manage the process to go out to bid on the Town's behalf to provide its residents and businesses with an option for purchasing electricity at a cost less than is provided by National Grid. Approval from town meeting obtained several years ago with the intent of this process to be managed by the Hampshire Council of Governments but they were unable to obtain approval from the State Dept. of Public Utilities for the 40 towns who wanted to participate. That approval by Town Meeting has been transferred to Colonial.

Mark Cappadona and Bernie Lynch gave a presentation to both the Green Committee and the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Lynch cited the benefits of community choice aggregation;

- “Choice – No longer “stuck” with utility default rates
- Stability – Municipality can seek long-term rates to avoid market volatility
- Savings – CCA obtained rates are generally below to substantially below average default rates
- Economic Development – Stable and lower utility rates provide a competitive advantage for businesses choosing locations
- Pro-Consumer – Contract terms and conditions are designed to protect customer rights
No Penalties for Consumers – Opt-out anytime and go back to default service or choose another provider
- Professional Expertise – Retaining a qualified Consultant ensures smooth roll-out and implementation
- Local Oversight & Control –
 - Town officials hold provider and Consultant accountable through transparent local management
 - Municipality sets its own energy goals, e.g., long-term fixed rates or a higher mix of renewable energy
- Green Power – Municipality can “green-up” entire supply portfolio or offer “opt-in” green products to consumers

- Future Opportunities – CCA Plans are still evolving:
Funding Energy Management
Supporting Additional Renewable Energy Generation
Energy Conservation”

The steps in the process were discussed. As the Town has already accepted the Aggregation Statute at Town meeting the Board of Selectman will post the aggregation plan for fifteen days and adopt it at their meeting in May. Once the following is completed it is anticipated the new rates will be in effect for November or December:

- State Filings by Aggregation Consultant
- Consultation with DOER
- Approval by DPU
- Solicitation of Energy Pricing by Aggregation Consultant
- Town Decision to Proceed...and how to Proceed
- Ratepayer Notifications by Aggregation Consultant
- Opt-Out Period managed by Aggregation Consultant
- Energy Flows

Discuss Solarize Massachusetts Program with the Green Community Committee

The members of the Green Community Committee were in attendance to present the executive summary for the *2016 Solarize Massachusetts Request for Proposals from Massachusetts Communities*. “The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (“MassCEC”), in conjunction with the Green Communities Division of the Department of Energy Resources (“DOER”), is releasing a request for proposal to Massachusetts towns to apply for participation in the 2016 Solarize Massachusetts Program (“Solarize Mass”). Solarize Mass is a community-based solar photovoltaic outreach and education program which helps drive down the installation cost of small-scale solar PV installations within each community through a group purchasing model.

As part of the program, up to 10 towns (or groups of towns) will be selected to participate in the program. Applications will be selected on a first come first served basis. In order to meet the threshold criteria, towns must present:

- Clear and comprehensive outreach plan and program timeline
- Committed volunteer team
- Engaged municipality and residents interested in participating in the program”

Member Brad Rolph narrated the program goals, process, installer selection and outreach, education and marketing strategies.

In order to reach the Tier 5 baseline thirty- four households in Upton would need to participate to generate a \$300,000 savings for the community.

The committee will reach out residents to gauge interest.

89 **ADJOURN MEETING**

90 ***Motion #1:*** At 7:09 pm motion was made by Selectman Brochu to adjourn the regular meeting.

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92 Second: Selectmen Fleming, Unanimous Chairman Picard.

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94 Respectfully submitted,

95 Sandra Hakala

96 Executive Assistant